



BIOSECURITY VANUATU
BIOSECURITÉ DE VANUATU

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NOTICE TO ALL IMPORTERS

The Vanuatu Government through the department of Biosecurity Vanuatu is strengthening the control of importing animals, animal products, plants, plant products and other regulated goods into Vanuatu.

This Notice serves to inform all Importers that all applications for importation **MUST** be submitted and **APPROVED** by Biosecurity prior to shipment from the exporting country. As of the **26th of May 2020, to 26th of August 2020**, Biosecurity will provide a grace period for all importers to be familiar with this change. Commencing on the **27th of August, 2020**, any late applications for import permits will be **penalized**.

Thank you for your understanding.

Meriam Toalak
DIRECTOR



Date: 25th May 2020



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The following sections of the Acts and Procedures provide the enforcement of this change.

The Animal Importation and Quarantine Act [CAP 201] sub-section 2(1) paragraph (a) states: “**2. Restriction on importation of animals, animal products etc.** (1) *No person shall import or introduce any animal, animal products, biological product or any related article to Vanuatu – (a) without a permit issued under this Act;*”

The Plant Protection Act [CAP 239] sub-section 17(1) states “**17. Unlawful importation** (1) *On the authority of the Director, the Principal Biosecurity Officer may, and at the expense of the owner of the goods, order the seizure of any unauthorized introduction, and in subsequent treatment and disposal in any manner he deems appropriate.*”

To avoid such disappointments of unlawful importation, Procedure 7.0 of the Plant Import Specification Manual provides the procedures for the issue of permits and the role of the importer is outlined in procedure 7.2.1: “*The importer will (a) lodge an application for an import permit prior to ordering plant material from an overseas supplier, and pay the permit fee.*”